Lesson Sequence - RE

Year Group: 3

Theme: Christianity – why is Christmas a winter festival?

Learning objectives:	Key resources/stimuli
To understand why light features in winter festivals. To understand two Christian uses of light at the Christmas festival. To develop their understanding of the meaning behind Christmas and why it is celebrated.	PowerPoints Video clips Key fact cards Images
Key vocabulary	Key knowledge
Christmas, advent, Christingle, Jesus, birthday, celebration, importance, festival, light, frankincense, myrrh, gold, wise men, stable, nativity, Gabriel, angel, shepherd, Mary, Joseph	Children will understand why light features in winter festivals. Children will understand two Christian uses of light at the Christmas festival. Children will develop their understanding of the meaning behind Christmas and why it is celebrated.

Lesson 1: What is Christmas? KWL grid to ascertain children's prior knowledge on Christmas. Children to explore who celebrates Christmas, when is Christmas celebrated, why Christmas is such an important festival and how it is celebrated.

Lesson 2: Who do Christians believe Jesus was?

Children to explore the life of Jesus looking specifically at how we know about his life, what Christians believe about Jesus and why he is important at Christmas. Link to key events in the story of the Nativity.

Lesson 5 and 6: Christmas today

Children to bring together their knowledge from this unit looking more specifically at how Christmas is celebrated today – looking at Santa Claus and traditions they follow. Discuss how Christmas has evolved over time to become more superficial and less rooted in religion.

Lesson 4: Christmas and the Ancient winter festivals of light.

Children to explore the importance light has in Christmas celebrations and why Christians use lights to celebrate.

Recapping on the light represented in the Christingle and the shape of traditional Christmas lights reflecting this.

Lesson 3: Advent

Children to explore in more depth at the lead up to Easter, looking specifically at advent and its rituals towards Christmas Day. Children to look at what advent is, the meaning behind it and how it is celebrated. Children to explore the meaning and symbolism of the Christingle.

Y3								
	Christianity	Islam	Sikhism	Hinduism	Buddhism	Judaism		
Expected	Why is Christmas a winter festival? Can they explain why light features in winter festivals? Can they explain two Christian uses of light at the Christmas festival? Why is Easter a Spring Festival? Can they explain why symbols of new life are features of spring festivals? Can they explain two Christian uses of new life at Easter celebrations? Why did monks copy the Gospels by hand? Can they explain what the Gospels are as one of many books of the Bible? Can they give two reasons why the Lindisfarne monks copied the Gospels by hand?	What is a Mosque For? Can they state two features of a mosque and explain how they help to bring the community together? Can they state two features of a mosque and explain how they help Muslims to submit to God? Ramadan and Eid Can they describe what happens during Ramadan and Eid-Al-Fitr and explain why?	Not taught in this year group.	Not taught in this Year Group	Not taught in this year group	Judaism: Believing and Belonging Can they suggest a reason for the kosher food laws? Can they suggest beliefs and history underlying Hanukah traditions?		
Exceeding Y3	Why is Christmas a winter festival? Can they explain why celebrations of Jesus' birth happen in winter? Can they explain the meaning of the Christingle?	What is a Mosque For? Can they suggest a reason why any building can be used as a mosque? Can they show understanding of the word 'sacred' in connection to the mosque?	Not taught in this Year Group	Not taught in this Year Group	Not taught in this Year Group	Judaism: Believing and Belonging Can they suggest reasons for obeying religious commands? Can they suggest the value for a community following religious practices?		

Why is Easter a Spring Festival? Can they explain why celebrations of Jesus' resurrection occur in spring? Can they describe one symbol of new life used at the Jewish Passover festival? Why did monks copy the Gospels by hand? Can they explain the purpose of the Gospels? Can they give two pieces of information about the Lindisfarne monastic community.?	Ramadan and Eid Can they explain how Ramadan and Eid demonstrate the concept of ummah?		